

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 125**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Villines**

February 16, 2010

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 125—Relative to health facilities.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 125, as introduced, Villines. Health facilities: youth athlete heart screenings.

This measure would encourage all local hospitals and other health facilities with the ability to perform Electrocardiogram and Echocardiogram screenings to partner with high schools in their geographic area to provide free screenings for young athletes.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Los Gatos High School football player Michael  
2 Halpin collapsed at school on December 2, 2008, and later died  
3 of a previously undetected heart defect; and  
4 WHEREAS, Over 450,000 Americans collapse and die of  
5 sudden cardiac arrest each year, including many young athletes;  
6 and  
7 WHEREAS, Sudden cardiac arrest is an abrupt loss of the heart's  
8 ability to pump blood. It differs from a heart attack, which is caused  
9 by a loss of blood that causes the heart tissue to die. In sudden  
10 cardiac arrest the body's electrical system becomes defective and  
11 the heart is not able to form an organized beat and plunges into  
12 rapid or chaotic activity; and

1 WHEREAS, Sudden cardiac arrest is generally a result of a  
2 cardiovascular disorder, the most common of which is hypertrophic  
3 cardiomyopathy (HCM), that is often triggered by physical exertion  
4 like participation in sports; and

5 WHEREAS, The incidence of sudden cardiac arrest in people  
6 between 15 and 34, inclusive, years of age has increased by 10%  
7 in the last decade. While still relatively rare, sudden cardiac arrest,  
8 if a person is susceptible to it, more often occurs in younger, high  
9 school aged athletes than in older, college and professional age  
10 athletes; and

11 WHEREAS, Electrocardiograms (EKGs) and Echocardiograms  
12 are the best way to detect heart abnormalities that may lead to  
13 sudden cardiac arrest. These tests cost between \$800 and \$1,500,  
14 but are often not covered by health insurance because no symptoms  
15 are present to indicate the tests are needed; and

16 WHEREAS, A study in Italy has shown that the use of EKG  
17 and Echocardiogram scans can reduce the incidence of sudden  
18 cardiac arrest in young athletes; and

19 WHEREAS, Some local hospitals and health facilities have  
20 started programs in conjunction with the high schools in  
21 surrounding areas to provide free cardiac screening to young  
22 athletes to reduce the incidence of sudden cardiac arrest and death;  
23 now, therefore, be it

24 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
25 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature encourages all local  
26 hospitals and other health facilities with the ability to perform  
27 Electrocardiogram and Echocardiogram screenings to partner with  
28 high schools in their geographic area to provide free screenings  
29 for young athletes as a tribute to and remembrance of Michael  
30 Halpin and other young athletes that have fallen to sudden cardiac  
31 arrest and to prevent future tragedies; and be it further

32 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
33 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.